

1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5 1. A communications system, comprising:
a plurality of media terminal adapters;
a telephone line; and
a gateway configured to exchange voice and data packets between a network and
each of the media terminal adapters over the telephone line.

10 2. The communications system of claim 1 wherein one of the media terminal adapter
comprises a telephony device.

15 3. The communications system of claim 2 wherein the telephony device comprises
a telephone.

20 4. The communications system of claim 1 wherein the gateway is configured to
exchange the voice and data packets between the network and the media terminal adapters by
converting between a first format for the voice and data packets on the network and a second
format for the voice and data packets on the telephone line, the first format being different from
the second format.

25 5. The communications system of claim 4 wherein one of the media terminal
adapters comprises a telephone responsive to the voice packets having the second format.

30 6. The communications system of claim 5 wherein the telephone comprises a voice
processing engine configured to convert between the voice packets having the second format and
an analog voice signal in a voiceband frequency.

35 7. The communications system of claim 4 further comprising a telephone, and
wherein one of the media terminal adapters comprises an adapter configured to exchange the
voice packets on the telephone line having the second format with analog voice in a voiceband
frequency.

8. The communications system of claim 1 wherein the gateway comprises a cable
modem.

1 9. The communications system of claim 1 wherein the gateway comprises a first
port coupled to the telephone line and a second port, the communications system further
comprising an additional media terminal adapter coupled to the second port.

5 10. The communications system of claim 1 wherein the gateway further comprises
a voice and data processor configured to exchange the voice and data between the network and
the additional media terminal adapter.

10 11. A method of communication, comprising exchanging voice and data packets
between a network and a plurality of media adapter terminals coupled to a telephone line.

15 12. The method of claim 11 wherein one of the media terminal adapter comprises a
telephony device.

16 13. The method of claim 12 wherein the telephony device comprises a telephone.

20 14. The method of claim 11 wherein the voice and data packet exchange comprises
converting between a first format for the voice and data packets on the network and a second
format for the voice and data packets on the telephone line, the first format being different from
the second format.

25 15. The method of claim 14 wherein one of the media terminal adapters comprises
a telephone responsive to the voice packets having the second format.

30 16. The method of claim 11 further comprising exchanging a second plurality of voice
and data packets between the network and an additional media terminal adapter.